



Friday  
November 19,  
2010

# Weekly Views

Three staff members and six offenders from the Henryville Correctional Facility participated in a panel discussion with psychology club students from Indiana University Southeast located in New Albany, IN. Staff members educated the group on the Department's mission, out-patient substance abuse programming and facility operation. The offenders addressed the students on criminal thinking, drug addiction, being incarcerated and the imposition of self-imposed limitations.

A group of IUPUI's Criminal Justice freshmen class toured PEN Products and the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF). After a tour of the grounds, students and faculty convened at the facility's chapel where a panel of PEN and IREF staff discussed the different career options within the Indiana Department of Correction.

Rockville Correctional Facility donated \$500 to the local Buddy Bag Program through the Rockville First United Methodist Church. Buddy bags are packed with kid-friendly foods and are sent home with elementary school children on Friday afternoons. The program was developed in response to school personnel reporting that students were returning to school hungry on Mondays, not having had enough to eat on weekends. Funds were raised through ice cream sales to the offender population.

The GRIP, PLUS and Toastmasters programs at Madison Correctional Facility donated \$300 to the Sportsmen's Benevolence Association. GRIP also donated 300 cards to "Holiday Mail for Heroes" and addressed 469 cards to send to our troops for the holidays.

Bloomington Parole Agent MaryAnna Moore was recognized for her efforts and dedication to the development of curriculum for the Parole Division by being named as the Parole Trainer of the Year. She contributed to this initiative while also being an EEL participant and managing a large, rural caseload.

Former Colt's Head Coach Tony Dungy visited the Plainfield Correctional Facility to share an inspiring message of faith with more than 300 offenders. Coach Dungy challenged the offenders to seek healthy spiritual relationships and to become caring fathers. A Q&A session concluded the event, where offenders were able to ask Coach Dungy a variety of questions regarding faith and inner strength.

The giant U.S. Flag memorial quilt created by the Purposeful Living Units Serve participants at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility has found a temporary home in the Sullivan County Courthouse rotunda. The 30' by 20' quilt was made to honor all those who have died while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. The quilt is made up of 6500 4" squares of material and a name is handwritten on each square. The names continue to be updated, and sadly, there are more than 5500 names presently on the quilt.

Chain 'O Lakes Correctional Facility, with the aid of the Noble County Purdue Extension Office, will conduct its second Master Gardner class in December. Since the program began last October, 15 offenders have graduated and helped to create the facility's first garden. Throughout the summer and fall, several hundred pounds of vegetables have been donated to a local food bank. The Master Gardener Program graduates also gave back to the local community by helping with landscaping projects and the creation of a rain garden.

Virgil Madden, Lieutenant Governor Skillman's policy advisor, visited the Correctional Industrial Facility to pick up special holiday wish cards made for U.S. troops overseas. The PLUS offenders made over 1200 cards, 68 letters and 15 book marks.

Students from Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility completed a Restorative Justice Community Service project for Pendleton Power and Light. The students re-strung 26 Christmas wreaths that are displayed throughout the town of Pendleton.

Offenders and staff at the Indiana State Prison were entertained by Mark Lundholm, a comedian working with University of Notre Dame to target at-risk-youth, and student groups, dealing with addictions and alcohol abuse. Mr. Lundholm's performance was a funny and poignant attempt to battle recidivism. The offender population graciously received the welcomed entertainment.

Camp Summit staff served up an Italian beef meal for a staff food sale. The proceeds from the sale will be used to purchase foodstuffs for local area food banks during the holiday season. So far sales have been brisk with tremendous support from staff at the facility. The special meals were prepared with the assistance of Aramark staff.

Three Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility students earned their Microsoft Certification and three college credits from Ivy Tech Community College.

The Covenant Choir visited the New Castle Correctional Facility and put on three performances for the offender population.